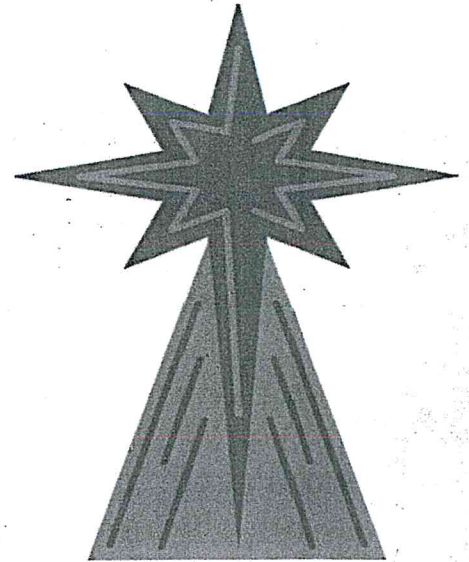


*Seventh Sunday
after Epiphany
February 23, 2025
10:30 a.m.*

OUR LORD'S
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
There's a Place for You Here



GATHERING TOGETHER

For Today

We are reminded, today, that we are seeking to follow a light that would have us live and love differently. This worship will offer space, once again, to make a commitment to love as Christ loves, not because we have never said this before, but because we need to hear it again from our own lips.

*As you view and participate in this worship please note that **bolded text** invites ALL to voice.*

Prelude *A medley of African American Spirituals to honor Black History Month
"Jacob's Ladder", "Go Down, Moses", "Every Time I Feel the Spirit"*

Welcome

One voice: Good morning, Church! I see you!

ALL voices: I am here!

Graceful Engagement

*Opening Chorus "Sanctuary"

FWS 2164

*Call to Worship

Jesus teaches us, "Do to others as you would have them do to you." But who are the others?

Our enemies and friends, family and strangers.

Jesus teaches us, "Be merciful as God is merciful." But what is mercy?

To act with compassion, to help without expecting anything in return.

cont.

Jesus teaches us, "Forgive, and you will be forgiven." But how do we forgive?

By recognizing enemies, friends, family, strangers, and ourselves as people in need of compassion.

Let us worship God, who loves us and empowers us to love one another with mercy and compassion.

Come, let us worship!

*Hymn "Now Thank We All Our God" vs. 1, 2

UMH 102

*Unison Prayer

Holy God, through Jesus You call us into a life that others have told us is easy, but it is not. You challenge us to forgive, to love our enemies, to bless those who curse us. We want the easy way, but You have given us the hard path. Grant us the patience and endurance to journey with Jesus. Give us space to allow ourselves at times to stumble and to live into the hard way. Allow us to fully experience Your love, grace, and peace in this world, by becoming a people full of love and grace and forgiving others. Amen.

LEARNING TOGETHER

Children's Message

One: And, Jesus said... ALL: **Let the children come!**

Children's Time in the Wesley Room

ALL children are invited to join together just outside the Sanctuary.

Scripture Reading Focus text: Luke 6:27-38 CEB

Response

The Word of God for ALL of us, God's people.

Thanks be to God!

Sermon "Lean In and Love"

RESPONDING TOGETHER

(please text prayers to 414-378-4012 and Pastor Kelly will receive them)

Response Chorus "Now Thank We All Our God" vs. 3

UMH 102

Shared Community Joys and Concerns

Call to Prayer "Be Still My Soul" vs. 2

UMH 534

Pastoral Prayer for the Cares of the People

The Lord's Prayer ALL Together

UMH 895

*Invitation to Giving Action

Responding to the goodness of God, we now commit our time, talent, treasure, willingness to serve and gift of witness as we share our offerings.

While making your offering, please also take a moment to greet your neighbor saying:

The peace of Christ be with you! **And, also with you!**

*Epiphany Doxology

TUNE: OLD HUNDREDTH, L.M.

Praise Love who made all time and space.

Praise Love who came in truth and grace.

**Praise Love on humankind outpoured,
that ALL may love forevermore.**

*Blessing Prayer

Merciful God, who calls us to love beyond measure, we offer these gifts as a sign of our commitment to Your teachings. Help us love our enemies, do good to those who hate us, and bless those who curse us. May our offerings bring healing and hope, reflecting Your boundless grace in our community. In Jesus' name, we pray, let it be so.

*Responsive Sending Forth

Beloved, go from this place ready to *listen*.

We go, and we'll listen for the opportunities to extend mercy.

Notice the moments to forgive instead of condemn.

We go, to watch for the person who needs help without any strings attached.

The blessing of the Triune God goes with you, pouring out mercy and compassion on you.

We go, so that we may share mercy and compassion with everyone we meet.

*Our Charge

*Final Blessing Respond "Yes!" after each blessing phrase and join in ALL together for the final phrase: "This day and in every day to come!"

*Closing Hymn "Hymn of Promise" all verses

UMH 707

*Postlude "Put a Little Love in Your Heart"

by Jimmy Holiday and Randy Myers

**Need hearing assistance? Hearing assist devices are available.
Visit our tech room and someone will help you.**

Lectionary readings: Genesis 45:3-11, 15 "Joseph forgives his brothers", Psalm 37:1-11; 39-40 "The lowly shall possess the land", 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50 "The mystery of the resurrection", Luke 6:27-38 "Love your enemies"

Thank you for worshipping with us at Our Lord's!



Scan this QR code using the camera on your phone to contribute a gift to support our church and its ministries. Explore more of our website by clicking the "Our Lord's" header at the top of the page. There you'll find past worship services, information regarding our various ministries, and much more!

Highlighting, with gratitude, these servant leaders for today...

Wendi Haubert, Izzy Veit, Dave Smith, Rebecca Landgraf, Kathy Depies, Decker Henninger, Amy Veit, Sophia Veit, Sue Schulkers, Karen Haubert, Don Mains

CBA: Wendi Haubert/finance@ourlordsumc.org

Office Administrator: Tabitha Manning/office@ourlordsumc.org

Pastor: Kelly Fowler/pastorkelly@ourlordsumc.org

*Find us on Facebook and watch our live-streamed Sunday services at www.facebook.com/OurLordsUMC/

*Visit us on our website at www.ourlordsumc.org

Worship resource: Ministry Matters, <https://www.ministrymatters.com/>, Discipleship Ministries, <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/>

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Our Lord's United Methodist Church is located on the ancestral homelands of the Potawatomi, Sioux (Ochethi Sakowin), Kickapoo, Ho-Chunk, Myaamia, and Peoria people's.